

AN ACCOVT
OF
OLIVER HILL'S

AGENCY IN SPAIN

ab^t the Post office

in a letter to a friend.

AT LISBONE.

1690



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ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS letter having been printed where they understand not English, & where the Author was not present to correct it, the Reader will meet with many errors both in the orthography & punctuation & sense, which he is desired to excuse, & to supply himself that which is wanting: also for want of a double V the Printer hath made use of two single ons.

Noble Sir.

SEEING you vvere soKind as to concern your self for me in my happines (as you vvere pleas'd to term it) you must taKe your share also of my troubles and misfortunes (as perhaps you and the vworld call the loss of my places) but vvchich, I assure you, vvill amount to no more than to that of perusing this long & tedious letter ; vvherein I give you, & all the friends of you & me in the noble Clubb, a true and exact account of my Agency in Spain, & of the occasion of my beeing out of it, & of my Post mastership.

In the moneth of December 1690. I arrived at Deale, and after 20. dayes stay, the Queen of Spain appearing in the Dovvns vvith her Convoy, I embarked on board the Suffolck, vvhereof Captain Aylmer vvvas then Commander ; & vvvent in her to Portsmouth, vvhere I received my Commission of Agent; and from Portsmouth to Torbay; & thence, by Major Vvildmans order, to Falmouth by land, to go in the Packe-boat vvchich vvvas there vvaiting for me, to carry the first nevves of the Queens coming to Spain, having got for that purpose Conde Mansfelds, and some others letters to that Court.

In our vvay from falmouth the Packe boat

took aprize, vvvhich vvvas à Portuguese ship loaden
 vvith paper, brandy, vvoolen goods, bound from
 Rochel to the Portuguese Islands; our Captain, Iohn
 EaKines, dispos'd of her at the Groyne, vvithout
 being condemned, made of the ship and cargo about
 1500. pounds, & offerd me hundred pistolls not to
 meddle and maKe; but I refused them, & gave an
 account of all to Major Vvildman; vvho, as I have he-
 ard since, vvvas pleased to call me afool for refusing
 it: & cleered, some say shared, the said EaKines his
 effects, vvvhich at his return to England had been
 seized vpon by the officers of Falmouth for the Kings
 vse; doubtless to avoide himself that vvvhich he laught
 at me for in compliyanee vvith the vvords of Christ
 in another sence, vvvhich are of late very vvell obser-
 ued by all them that are concerned vnder him in the
 management of this busiuess of the PackeT boats, viz
qui potest capere capiat, nam qui potest, & non capit is a
 fool, according to the prouerb. *Quis nisi mentis inops*
oblatus respuat aurum? But hauing been taught better
 PoliticKs by Solomon: *I hō stolen vvaters be sweet, yet,*
my son, eat not honey, saith he, *be cause it is sweet, for the*
end is bitterness; (as noble Captain EaKines, vvho
 hath been caught by catching hauing lost his Capta-
 in-ship, & is as bare as before, hath experien,cd al-
 ready.) I vvould rather be call'd à fool than be so
 indeed.

On the 20. of march I landed at the Groyne some six dayes before the Queen appeared vpon the coast. Vvhere thô I vvas Agent, & detached besides from the fleet to bring the nevves of the Queen of Spains coming, the Vice-King denyed me Post, mules, & other horses & conueyance to Madrid, vvch I could by no meanes procure vvithout his licence, thô I offered to pay any price for it. Because he vvould detayne me vntill the Queens arriual to send an Express him self, that he might gett the present vvch is vsually giuen on such occasion to him that brings the first nevves. However having bought mules, & found meanes to procure Post horses part of the vvay I brought the first nevves, not of her approach only, but of her safe arriual to this coast vvhere she appeared before I lost sight on't, or vvas gon three leagues & halfe on my journey to Madrid; and I arriued there three houres before the Express vvch they dispatch'd to bring the same nevves. My revvard for so doing is to come; for the Spaniards, vvho are very generous, leaue it to the Almighty; & thinck that a stone-doublet they gaue me. In Iuly last, is a competent revvard to his Magestys Minister for the seruice don them in that occasion.

Vpon the 29. I arriued at Madrid: & vpon the 30. I presented their King the following memorial viz.

His Magesty of Great Britains Agent, Oliver Hill, who arrived yesterday at this Court, sheweth, that he hath been sent hither for two things. One to treat of the settling of the new Posts which the King his master sets up by sea from England to these Kingdoms, to go & come dire tly without passing through France, to the end that the commerce of & the correspondence with that Kingdom may be broken off. As it appears by the said Agents Commission which he presents herewith to your Magesty.

Secondly, to bring aduise of her Magestis approach and arrivall to these parts; as appears by Count Mansfelds letters from on board the fleet.

And because the said Agent is come to dispatch business & not to make compliments; and that the settling of this concern is a thing that doth require haste, both because the mailes for Spain having been already stopt in England, as many as shall be sent thither from hence hereafter will be infallibly lost, to the great prejudice of the English trade with Spain, which will suffer extreamly & remain interrupted while delays shall be interposed at this Court: And because there are already two Packet boats waiting for your answer & for the mailes at the Croyn, which, if delays be used, will occasion great charges, the said Agent desireth to enter upon business, & in to negotiation with this Court immediately having orders (without prejudice notwithstanding to the priviledges & rights & immunities due by the use & customs of this Court to such ministers of

Crov-

Crowvned heads as he is) not to stand vpon any puntos & formalities.

There fore, in the name of the King his master he entreats your Magesty to name and appoint forthvvith some persons to treat vvith him. And, as the Posts for France have been stopt already in England, so ~~the~~ they may also be stopt here in Spain; & that the Northern mailes may be liKevvise deliuerd to his order at the Groyn to be carryed to England & other their respectiue places by the PacKet boats, vvich are now vvaiting at the Groyn for that purpose. To all vvich particulars he begs your Mgesstys ansvver as soon as possible. In Madrid the 30. of March 1690.

As soon as I had presented this memorial I vvvent about to vvait vpon most of the Grandees vvho vv ere then members of the Councel of state, to vvich it belong'd to take cognizance of this affaire: & deliuerd each of them my rea sons in vvriting, shewing the that it vv as more theirs than our interest to embrace this conveyance. Of vvich they vv ere easily convinced, as they confess'd, yet they took 17. dayes to resolute on the business. So that vv as the 17. of Aprill before I could heare of any ansvver vvich D. Crispin Botelho their Secretary of state for the North deliuer'd me in vvriting vvith his hand to it, vvich I haue here traslated in to English, thus.

Having deliuer'd in to the hand of the King my master the Paper vvich you haue put in to myne, in vvich
you

you demand that Commissioners be named for you to conferr
 vvith, and adjust, or settle the course of the ordinary Posts
 by sea, to prevent their going any more through France, for
 vvhich demand you haue presented the powver of the King
 of great Britain your master; and that from this time for
 vvard the maile letters for England be delivered to you
 to be transported by the PacKet boats vvhich you haue ready
 for this end at the Coruña: His Magesty hath resolved that
 I give you to vnderstand from him the firm intent & pur-
 pose vvhich, vpon mature deliberation, he hath taKen, to
 settle this commerce by vvay of England. Vvith this prouiso,
 that the letters for Flanders & Germany shall go directly
 from England to Newvport, vvith the interuention of the
 Spanish Minister residing then in London. Vvhich thing you
 are to impart to your Post Master General. And his Ma-
 gesty hath further commanded me to conferr vvith you, &
 vvith Cond^e d'Onatte the Post Master General of these
 Kingdoms about the form & method of settling this vvay of
 correspondence because vtill all the points of this new
 form be leuell'd & made currant (vvhich vvill not taKe
 vp much time) the ordinary roads of the males cannot be
 so suddenly altered. Of all vvhich I give you notice, that if
 you please to meet me, vve may appoint a day for our confe-
 rence. God preserue you many yeares. At Madrid the 17.
 April 1690. Signed, Crispin Botelho.

Having receiued this ansvver vpon tuesday, vve
 appointed the fryday follovvng 20. April for our
 first

first meeting at the Secretaryes office. And because they said nothing of deliivering me the English maile the next day, vvvhich vvvas Post day for the North, I made a second Memorial to demand it: & it vvvas that very day, the 18. of April, granted & deliuerd me. But the Conde d'Onatte, vvwho had made it his business, & took all the occasions he met vvwith to oppose vs; thereby to vveary & beat vs off of our designe, thò I had my self brought him our English maile & deliuerd it to him, vvould not be so civill as to send it to my lodging, or deliuer it my man; or forvvvard it himself by the Galicia Post (vvvhich vvvent thence that very night, & every vvvednesday night about one in the morning) to the Groyn, but oblig'd me to go my self in person at midnight to the forrein office, there to receiue it, & give a receit for it, & to get it carryed to the Groyn hovv I could, I vvwaited there an houre for the said Condes orders or leave, and hauing at last received the maile, my man carryed it vvwith me to the Gallicia office, vvwhere they took it readily & freely enough that time, because the Councels order to the Conde d'Onatte coming out so suddenly & late, he had not the time to give them, as he did since, a charge to the contrary. By this maile I sent Major Vvildman the copyes both of my memorials & of their ansvveres to them, vvwith an account of Conde d'Onattes civility, vvwhereby he

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might

might vnderstand the state of our business.

About the same time our second maile, vvvhich had been brought by the second PacKet boat, being sent to me sealed from the Groyn, they received it, & opened it them selves vvithout my interuention, & never sent me my letters vvvhich came by it, nor gave me any notice of the coming of that maile; thò they provide for them selves that their Minister in London shall interuene not only at the opening & the distributing of their mailes & their letters, but even at the very passage of them through England.

On the same day 18. I made, to lose no time & to anticipate the day of the conferéce, the following proposalls, & gave them in vvriting to the said Secretary of State, vvvhich are as followveth.

His Magesty of Great Brittain having before sufficiently signalized his Generosity & zeale for the concerns of this Crovvn in convoying the Queen hither (vvvhich cost England five millions of pieces of eight) is yet vvilling by an excess of the same zeale for the good of this Crovvn in particular & of the Confederates in general, to make (at such time as this vvherein he hath need of all his ships, & of all his money) another effort vvvhich vvill cost him some hundred thousand pieces of eight, to fit out, arme, & maintain PacKet boats to bring hither & carry back to England by sea all the Northern mailes, vvhi-

vvithout going any more through the french hands & country.

And thò he might by right pretend that his Catholick Magesty (vvhom it concerns neerer than him, as appeares by the reasons his Agent hath given in vvriting to the Lords of the Councel of state, & to some others) should repay him one half at least, of all the money he hath already laid out, & shall lay out hereafter for fitting out PackEt boats, besides the half of the charge to Keep & to maintain them, nevertheless to go on as he hath begun, & to contribute more than others towards the charge of this vvarr, & of vvhat is requisite to maintain the publicK cause against the common Ennemy, he is vvilling to yeeld so much of his right & of that he might pretend, as to demand nothing att all for the money vvich he hath already laid out, & as to content himself vvith the following articles.

1. First, to find or prouide as many PackEt boats as shall be necessary to transport regularly twice a moneth the Northern mailes. Vvhich ships shall be men of vvarr of a sufficient force to guard and defend the mailes & to transport them safely in case they be set vpon.

2. That his said Magesty shall alone beare, & sustaine all the loss & the damage of all such PackEt boats as shall be cast away or taken, & shall alvvayes provide others in their room.

3. That his said Magesty shall finde & be at halfe of the charges and expence of the said Packe^r boats, from the time of their first coming out to sea, & so long as they shall continue.

4. That the said Packe^r boats shall carry franco from Spaine to England all the mailes & Packe^rs & Expresses, vvhich his C. M. shall at any time send & dispatch into the North, & shall bring to Spain all those shall come thither from the North: & the said Expresses shall haue their Passage & that of one seruant free vvith the Kings provision for them selues & for their man all the time they are at sea. Vvhereby his said Magesty vvill save every yeare the charge of those Expresses, & the money paid the French, more than 40. thousand crouns.

5. That the Postage of letters from Germany & Flanders to England shall not be raised, & the said lettets shall pay no further than to London at the vsuall rate: then shall be carryed franco from London as farr as Spain. And in the same manner the letters from Spain to Flanders & Germany shall not pay but from London to Flanders the vsuall price.

6. That all the mailes from the North to Spain shall be deliver'd at the place vvhich the Packe^r boats shall come to, into the hands of a deputy of the Post master General of Spaine to be forvvarded & disposed of by him, as the said Post master General

ral shall thinK it best. And liKevvise the PackEt boats shall there receiue of him the Spanish mailes for the North.

7. That all the Spanish mailes for Flanders & Germany shall be in the same manner deliuer'd at Nevvport into the hands of a deputy of the Post master General of Flanders from vvhom the German & Flemish mailes shall also be receiued , as they vsed to be.

8. That for all these aduantageous offers, conditions, & aduances vvwhich his said Magesty of great Brittain maKes to this Court, his C. M. or the Conde d'Onatte for him, shall pay no more than one half of the charges, & expence of the said PackEt-boats since the time they are employed & for the time of their continuation from yeare to yeare. Vvwhich said half shall be limited to the sum of eight thousand pounds sterling, or 40. thousand pieces of Eight yearely.

And for the punctuall payment & security of the said sum his Cath. M. shall assign a sufficient fund, as some branch of his revenue: or allowv an equivalent of the said sum in granting him some other meanes (vvwhich shall be proposed hereafter) capable to ansvver the said half & to indemnify his said Magesty of great Brittain for it.

This paper vvvas out of hand sent to Conde
D d'Onatte

d'Onatte, vvho made in ansvver to it eleven articles. All vvwhich, but the eleventh, signified little or nothing, & for the most part vvvere false. For instance, he objected that this designe vvvas set on foot by Major Vvildman vvwithout the Kings privity; and that Major Vvildman drove it on for his ovvn ends, & his private interest, & not for the publicK good.

His last point vvwhich vvvas the most and only material thing, being that, in case they sent their Flanders maile through England, the French vvould give no more passage through their ovvn coutry to the maile from Italy to Spain, vvhereby the Spanish correspondence vvith Milan & Naples should be cutt off. To vvwhich I made ansvvere that they might as vvell then as they did in the last vvarr set vp Packet-boats liKevvise betveen Spain and Italy; and that in the mean Vvhile, if the French should stop their maile before those boats vvvere ready, they might send it our vvay, viz through England to Flanders, Germany and Italy, & back again the same vvay from Italy through England. But they being vvnn-vvilling to alter the vvual course of the Flanders Post till such time as they vvvere provided for Italy; and this being one of the chiefest points vvwhich their ansvvere to one of my memorials said vvvas to be made curreant before they sent the German & Flanders maile our vvay, I sent Major Vvildman vvord of it,
 begg'd

begg'd his answer; & to let me Know whether
 I should propose to them to set up and undertake
 those packet boats our selves; the Spaniards being
 not fitt for it, or at least so slow, that if we left it to
 them it would putt a great stop to the speedy con-
 clusion & end of our business, nay & go neer to
 spoil it. That it was altogether our interest to doe
 it, for we should thereby partly become Masters of
 their trade, the thing would more than quitt cost; &
 beare its own charge, & I found that they would
 readily consent to it. With this letter I sent also my
 Propositions, with my reasons & motives for de-
 manding this money, and not, as my instructions
 were, the Land Post of our mailles to be in our
 hands; and added a word or two about money
 to subsist having yet received none; for that living
 at Madrid, & as Agent, was chargeable; and be-
 sides, I had then two houses to pay rent for, & two
 families to keep, viz, one at the Coruña & the other
 at Lisbon: and over & above this the small concerns
 I had in both places were not able to beare this charge
 very long, & were like to suffer very much by
 my absence.

Whilst these things were a doing the Post day
 for the North, which is every fortnight, came about
 the second time. And I went as before, viz, at
 midnight or after to the forreine Post office to
 de-

demand the English maile ; vvvhich being de-
 liuer'd me I carryed , as before , to the Galicia
 office; vvhere they vvould not receiue it, alleadging
 that it did not belong to them to send it, thò they
 had don it for once; but that hence forth, if I vvould
 have it go to the Groyn I must send it thither at my
 costs by an Express; vvvhich they presumed I vvould
 not doe then, for the charge vvvas great & the letters
 fevv, that maile containing not a bove a hundred
 letters; & the charge of an Express being a hundred
 & ten pieces of Eight, because Madrid is about a hun-
 dred & tvveenty leagues from the Groyn. And truly
 they guessed right; for I considering that the Postage
 of that maile vvould not amount to ten pounds,
 that it vvould be in London sooner by vvay of Flan-
 ders than by the vvay of the Groyn, having no
 Express ready; that it vvvas no great matter vvvhich
 vvay it vvvent for this once; that this happened by
 their fault; vvonderd hovv the Conde d'Onatte durst
 attempt it , & hovv he could answer forbidding
 them to take it (for this vvvas vvithout doubt a jug-
 gle & a trick of his) & not questioning at all but
 that I should get redress before the next Post, in fine
 seeing that money must go out of my pockeT , &
 not Knowving vvwhether it should come in there
 again, I forbore to dispatch & to look for an Ex-
 press. And being inconvenient for me to detain
 the

the maile till after the Post vvhere gone, because of the Kings Packets vvwhich I had in that maile, for vvwhich, I Knevv, they vvould maKe a great noise the next day, and, as I suspected, vvvas one of the things aym'd at by the Conde d'Onatte; I fairly carried back the maile to the same office vvhere I had receiued it, & bid them taKe care of it, & lend it at their ovvn charge, as it vvvas just they should doe, since their Master receiued all the benefit of those vvwhich vve brought him from England. So I left it vvith them, & vvvent to bed it being about two in the morning; and the next day I vvvent to the Secretary of State vvith this memorial.

His Magesty of Great Brittain's Agent saith, that ha-ving here to fore demanded that if the vvhole Northern mayle vvvas not as yet to be deliuer'd to him, the English maile howver should be deliuer'd to his order at the Groyn, your Magesty commanded that it should be deliuer'd.

Vvherevpon they haue, obliged him to go himself every Ordinary at Midnight to the forrein office, there to receive it, & to carry it from thence to the Galicia offices vvwhich thing he hath now don twice; and the first time they took it, but the second denyed it, bidding him send it forvvard himself at his ovvn charges.

And because it is not vvorth the vvhile to send an Ex-press so farr as the Groyn vvith so few letters as that maile contains; and the Conde d'Onatte receiuing the benefit of

our mailes from England, it is just & reasonable he should be at the charge of conveying to the Groyn those that go from hence thither: and these proceedings of the Conde, & of the office, being such indignities as the said Agent ought not to beare vvith, & vvhich, tho he hath already suffered them vvice, in hope to see a quick end of them & of his Treaty, he vvill by no meanes submit to any longer.

Therefore he prayeth your Majesty to forbid those vvorthy proceedings for the future, & to give your orders to the Conde d'Onatte to take care that the said mailes may be sent every Post to the Groyn at his ovvn charge, & there deliver'd to Iohn Parquer to forvvard the same according to the orders he hath from the said Agent. At Madrid, the 4. of May 1690.

The Secretary of state approved this memorial, vvondered at the Conde & the offices doings; & promised faithfully to send it after the King, vvho vvvas already on his vvay to Valladolid (vvhere he vvvent to meet the Queen) & to get it dispatched.

By this time the Court, Council of state, & ovvr Conde vvvere gon ovv of Madrid to accompany the King, & to vvait vpon the Queen; and Bull feasts vvvere preparing ad Valladolid, & Madrid, vvvhich vvvere to last a vvhole fortnight in each place, during vvvhich time vvvas to be no dispatch; & my business being none of those vvvhich vvvere to be the first dispatched, as requiring some time for its consideration.

sideration, I had no hope of their answer vnder six weekes time. So that seeing no reason for my being in Madrid idle & spending all that while, when my concerns wanted me so much in other places; at Lisbon, & at the Groyn, vvhich I had two houses & two families to Keep, viz, my wife & some children & seruants at the first place, & my daughter & two maides & aboy at the other, vvhich I had brought vvith me: and all my Concerns being at a stand in both places; besides that Master Parker Consul of Gallicia, vvho had in his custody the goods I brought over, did vvhat he thought fitt vvith them, living vpon the same, stopping old gaps out of them (for before he had his place he vvvas gon from the Groyn indebt over head & eares) & gave me no account of them, or of any thing: and in fine considering that my absence hindered not the answer of the Council of state to my Proposals; & that if this new Project (vvhich met vvith opposition from all the Partisans, friends, & might of Onatte) should chance to take no effect, I might be vndon by it, if I did not look to the main chance at home: and its an vgly figure a man makes vvho goes mumping at Court for his own money, vvhen he hath spent it for them, vvhich I never vvvas taken vvith; especially in these last yeares of famine, vvhich vvill, I feare, devour the former

mer yeares of plenty, & leave the Kings Exchequer
 barer than in time of yole: I resolved at last (& it
 is vvell I did) during this intervall of their feasts, to
 make a trip to Lisbon, & to the Groyn, to look
 after my concerns, & to dispoſe of my ſelf as pro-
 vidence ſhould direct, looking vpon all things in
 the vworld as vncertain: and communicated my
 deſigne to Don Criſpin the Secretary of ſtate (vvho
 vvvas no Enemy to the concern at that time, &
 ſeemed to favor me) and to Don Francisco de Scho-
 neberg then Envoy of the ſtates, & lately made Ex-
 traordinary Envoy of his Maſteſty, vvho had don
 me good ſervice, & ſhewed himſelf forvvard enough
 in aſſiſting me, & promoting this deſigne: both pro-
 miſ'd me to take care of all things in my abſence, &
 to ſee my laſt memoriall anſwer'd before the next
 Poſt-day for the North: and both gaue me letters of
 favor for Lisbon, to vvitt, Don Criſpin for the Spa-
 niſh Embaſſador there, & Don Francisco for the Heer
 Vvolſſen the Dutch Reſident. And I left my buſineſſ,
 I mean the drudgery of it, in the hands of a Court
 ſollicitor for the English, vvith copyes of all my me-
 morials & papers to be deliuer'd by him to Maſter
 Stanhop Envoy, vvhen he ſhould come to Madrid,
 to inform him perfectly of the ſtate of the buſineſſ;
 being by his inſtructions to aſſiſt me in getting the
 Land Poſt in our hands. And ſo I ſet forward for

Lisbon: vvhence I gaue a secōd accōut of all by some ships bound for London, & sent a second copy of my propositions & motives for demanding money, & not the land Post: moving for money again for myself, & for an ansvver about the vndertaking the Italian Packēt boats, vvithout vvich I could not go forvvard in the Treaty, & needed not return to Madrid till it vv as come.

And there, vvilst I vv as dispatching of my business, I received Major Vviidmans first letter since my arrivall to Spain, of the 13 day of May, vvich doth begin vvith these vvords. *Viz: I am exceedingly satisfied in your care & prudence, in finishing the Treaty vvith the King of Spain & his Ministers; I cannot this Post give you my Reflections vpon it, being overpressed vvith business of another nature. But I heartily thanck you, & hope you vvill vvith all the speed you can get the Post roades settled, & vvhen they vvill let the inland Post be in English hands, I vvould commend to you a friend for some employment in it*

I received also a letter from Don Crispin the Spanish Secretary, in ansvver to one of myne, vvherein I had complained that the Post Master of the Groyn had exacted money of Master Parker (as Parker had vvritt me) to send forvvard our mailes to Madrid along vvith his, vvich thing he ought not to doe, so long as Count d'Onatte had the benefit of
F them.

them. By this letter he tells me that orders had been given to the said Count d'Onatte to forvvard all our mailes, & letters at his ovvn charge. Vvhich I tooK for granted vvas meant of both our mailes Viz the English from the Groyn, & the Spanish from Madrid to the Groyn, as I did asK in my last memorial, & did not in the least doubt but that my said last memorial had been answer'd: & that the mailes for England vv ere sent currantly from Spain by vvay of the Packe-boats. On the receipt of this I vvrote to ParKer to give no more money for conveying our mailes; & that, as soon as they came, he should send vvord to the said Post-master to come to him, & to giue him a receipt for them (as they made me doe) before he deliver'd them, and, in case he refused it, to send the mailes by Express to my order at Lisbon. ParKer sent me for answer, by his of 26 Iune (vvhich letter I haue sent avvay to Major Vvildman, to shew him ParKers baseness, & to justify my self) that the Post master vvas come, according to my order, & had given him a receipt. Vvherein I acquiesced till I came to the Groyn, & asking for the receipts, found he had none to shew me; & that the said Post-Master never came, but laugh'd at him. And that he (the said ParKer) had got meanes to distribute & to disperse the letters to all the places of Spain & to recover the Port; vvhich profit, lest he

he should lose by sending the vvhole mailes seald vp to me to Lisbon, as I had vvritt him, made him give me that false advise & information; vvvhich is but his vvuall vvay of dealing vvith all the vvorld. But this trick, besides breaking orders, giving false advise, & committing Robbery, or theft in the Kings business, exasperated so much the more Conde d'Onatte (vvho is a neere Gentleman, & vvittid me many times for delivering my self, & not putting in our first maile I brought to him vvhen I vvnt to Madrid four or five letters vvvhich had been recommended to me by some friends of myne) and supplied him vvith a plea, & the pretence he vvanted, for sending via Flanders, & contrary to his King & Councel of states orders, Keeping our mailes from vs. Seeing that against that vvvhich I remained vvith him, Parker pvtloined the mailes, & got the postage from him.

Then my time being neer spent, I left the rest of my business in a merchants hands at Lisbon, & made all haste vvith my vvife & family to the Groyn, vvhere I came about the first of Iuly (timely enough in conscience to go to Madrid again to continue the Treaty, if Major Vvildman had not put a stop to my journey by the following letters; nay and to the vvole business even thò I had never come out of Madrid) And there met vvith a second

cond letter of Major Vvildman of the 27. May
vvhich vvas confirmed by his *ft.* of the 10. of Iune.
In that of 27. vvhether these vvords, videlicet.

*You vvere to demand nothing of them, but to deliuer
the letters constantly at the Groyn, & to receive there the
mailes from thence, vntless they vvere pleased to permit you
to establish any vvay of Inland Postage to any of the tra-
ding tovvns of his CatholicK Magesty; but that Proposal
being to be left to their ovvn choice & pleasure absolutely.*

In that of the 10 of Iune vvere the vvords fol-
lowing: Viz I sent you a letter last Post, vvhereof
the Spanish Embassadour had the duplicate to send to his
master, and therein I told you that I Expected no more
than the mailes to be deliuer'd & received. And I must here
say that the Spaniards vvill neuer pay vs money.

Other things they contained, tending to indu-
ce me to yeeld to Count Onatte; *If any disgust,*
(saith he) be giuen or taKen by the Conde d'Onatte, I expect
your vntmost submission: you vnderstand that delays cannot
be born; I am troubled & confounded, you Know the res-
perts I haue for you, pray deliuer me out of his trouble. &c.
all these letters, vvith the fore-going papers I Keep
by me to shew, if need requires.

These two last, I confess, surprized me very
much, seeing Major Vvildmans style to alter'd on a
sudden; all that I had don spoild, & the vvhole desi-
gne hereby ruin'd & Knockt in the head. *O quam*

mutans ab illo stylo knowed vwith me but not or 12.
 dayes before! For on the 13. of Maye the vvas ex-
 ceedingly satisfied vwith my prudence; and by
 the 27 he takes it for granted vwithout considera-
 tion that I vnderstood not, or had fer got the v-
 rande vvhich I vvas sent vpon. Vvhat's the matter
 said I: Is there money in the case? or hath Conde
 d'Onate, seeing he could not make a fool of me,
 sent to try his fortune vwith my Masters; and by gi-
 ving him good words, & misrepresenting the sta-
 te of our business, coart him into this good mood
 & fit of relaxation? Vve are like to thrive indeed, &
 to give a good account of our negotiation; if I go
 to give all away, & make our King send the Span-
 ish Post-master Generall at his ovrn charge, vvhilst
 he, the said Post master, by meanes of the Packe
 boats, shall have every yeare above fifty thousand
 Crowns, he and his pay to France. Vast charges &
 no returns is none of the Kings intent. If my Master
 will do this, let him doe it by himself, as for me,
meum nomen non obliuiscit, if I go to doe so before I
 see the souldiers sudden orders confirmed to me by
bona forma. Therefore I answered to his two said last
 letters, the same things in substance, as the 5. follo-
 wing Paragraphe contains, to wit, to om my bad
 -ovred. That he fore I went to obey his said or-
 ders, I made bold to tell him, that I vvas afraid he

it is vvorth more, before I sold it so; but vvould rather take it ill if I had sold it so before I told him our

3 That it vvas not vvith Conde d'Onatte I treated, but vvith the King him self & vvith his Councel of state; Onatte being no more than defendanc in the case, vvho must, vvill he nill he, pay, if condemned to doe it by his Iudge the said Councel. And supposing the Councel could not oblige him to it, & conuert to our vse the money he payes to France, yet vve might obtaine of them other things equiualent to the sum I asKed, nay more than equiualent, because they might be improved; & might easily be had because they Know not their vvorth, not maKing the most of them. Of vvich things I Knev vtwo: but the vvay to obtaine them vvas not to give over all our Right & pretensions.

400 That if Onatte beleeved that he could avoide paying, & did not rather perceive he must at last come to it, he had not sent after him (Major Vvildman) in England.

Scilicet is superis labor est, ea cura quietos sollicitas.

proud & haughty that they Those Grandees of Spain vvho vvill not repay the Visits of an Envoy, laugh at vs, & vvould leave vs to spend our time in vaine vvithout troubling themselves to run & seeK after vs but for their own ends only. I dare say

this Conde vvould not take so much notice of vs & our designs, as to put vpon vs the trickes he hath seru'd vs vvith, to vveary & beat vs of, vvhere it not that I hold here his nose to the grindstone; and this hath made him to seeke for relief, vvwhich he hath found. Vvhat a brave sum of money I might now get of him to conclude vpon the termes vvwhich you haue granted him by your duplicate, said I: farr from standing in need to submit my self to him, as you order me to doe: and if I should doe it vvould but helpe to make him vvorse. He vvill never yeeld vs any thing by his good vvill; therefore resist the devill, is the vvay to treat vvith him.

That, as for my instructions, they being in generall; to strive to obtaine some thing, my duty vvvas, even vvithout instructions for it, to endeavour to get it, & to tender the interest & the good of the concern, & of them that employed me, & to drive it on as farr as I could make it go, & to give nothing avvay therefore of vvhat I had any prospect to obtaine.

That my said instructions, tho they vvvere by vvord of mouth, none at all in vvriting, the management being left vvholely to my discretion; vvvere in patticular the very same as My Lord shrewsbury had vvritten by me to Mister Stanhop, & must needs agree vvith them, since he vvvas to assist

me in my Treaty & demands. Now his (vvhich are to be seen) are positive to demand & to insist vpon having the inland Postage of the mailes per Pack-boat to remaine in English hands, therefore my instructions vvere also to demand this thing. And his letter of 13. of May mentioned before, shewes he took it for granted that my instructions vvere such, & seeing that they vvere such, I could not treat vvithout making the demand, of it, or of some other thing for it, & instead of it.

That if my said instructions had been such as he affirm'd, viz, to demand no more than only the receipt & the deliuey of our mailes in the Groyne, it vvas needles to send me to treat, to make me Agent, & Post Master, & grant me power and authority (as by my Commission of Post-master I had) to erect new stages, & constitute Deputyes, & allow them salaries. For so long as they vvere to be served for nothing, & by the bargain to get the monies they pay to France, vvhen it is their interest besides to send their letters our vvay, & not through France, a single letter from their Embassadour in London vvas more than sufficient to finish this whole Treaty, as meeting on neither side vvith any difficulty, since one could vvish for no more than vvhat the other offered. And as for receiuing & deliuering the mailes, any Post boy might doe that, or

some of the Penny Post deputies, or the Captains of the Packer-boats themselves.

8 That if the demand vve vvere to make of the in land Post vvas to be left to their choice & pleasure absolutely, it vvas bootless to make it, the Spaniards giving nothing vwhen they see they can Keep it. And vvas but such another compliment to our selves as our Packer-boats are, vvhich make a great noise abroad, spend a great deale of money, to go vnder the notion of the Spanish Packer boats, but instead of mailes from Spaine, & of Gold & Iuory, as Solomons navy brough, bring only fevv Peacocks tayles.

9 That since it is evident I had neuer before received such instructions as vvere in his duplicate, 'twas not Kindly don of him to impose vpon me those things he Knevv never vvere. And to make our greatest Ennemyes & opposers, vvhoe vould faine Gundamore him, & sir Walter rauligh me, the bearers of that paper vwhereby he exposed me & gave them the greatest advantage imaginable; putting tools into their hands to defeat all that vvas don, & could be proposed & don by me aftervwards. Vicisti Count d'Onatte! all thy former endeavours against vs vvere as it vvere but some many light scratches, but this act of our own Post-master cuts very deep, stabbs the designe to the heart, & gives it a deadly wound!

That being to aske a thing, & having
 very little or no hopes to obtaine it, finding in every
 one such generall averſeneſſ againſt that thing (to
 witte, the inland poſtage of the mailles in English
 hands) that they not only told me that they would
 never grant it, but exclaimed againſt it vpon the
 leaſt motion or word I made of it; & had yet don it
 much more if they had conſidered that this demand
 included all the mailles from the North which (as it
 had been granted me by the Councel of ſtates an-
 ſwer to my memorial) were to goe *via* England.
 And from the exception they made in the grant the-
 reof, viz, that their Miniſter in London ſhould in-
 tervene at the very paſſage of the ſaid mailles
 through England, one might eaſily gather, ſince
 they would not truſt vs there, that they would not
 truſt vs here with the management of them; I ſay,
 having no hopes to get any thing this way, I
 thought that the beſt way & method I could take
 to bring the buſineſſ to beare was to let that ſtring
 vntoucht, & to demand ſome money, or ſome thing
 equivalent for it, as was propoſed. Kings ſend not
 their Miniſters to doe vyhat cannot be don, but to
 ſee vyhat may be don, & to make the moſt of that
 which they perceive is feaſible. Therefore they
 ſhould never ſend their errands but by the hands of
 ſuch as ſee in ſeeing, & Know how to go to
 worck;

vvorck; if they employ other men, let them take
 vvhhat comes of it that is, mis carriage & loss: Prov:
 26. 6.

11 That vvhhen I sent him copy of my Me-
 morials, & of the propositions I made to the Spani-
 ards, I gaue him vvvith them my reasons for so doing:
 & going this vvay to vvorck: therefore since he
 had the first, he must needs haue the second, & vvvas
 no stranger to it: And supposing it vvvere not satis-
 factory to him, howvvver he thought not to give it
 thus against me, nay against the King himself, in
 behalf of the Spaniards, vvwithout hearing me further;
 & thought not to have made them the bearers of his
 sentence, but me that vvvas sent to treat; for that vvvas
 to take from me, & to transferr to them all the
 povver of treating; & give them encoragement
 to go from, & recall that they had already yeilded, &
 fly higher, & attempt to put vpon vs those things
 vvvhich before they durst not so much as flatter them-
 selves vvwith the hope & the thoughts of. That it vvvas
 indeedd the vvray to make a quick end of all, of the
 Treaty, Post-master, & Paeker boats all at once; but
 that he should shortly see vvhat point he had got
 hereby tovwards a good conclusion, & vvwhether
 Onatte vvould now befriend the designe. Alas!
 he looks vpon it as a meer Engine set vp to batter
 him to ruine & therefore hath shewed himself vpon
 all

all occasions its implacable Ennemy, & raised the
posse of all his friends against it even for six moneths
 before I appeared to treat, & hath ever since vied all
 meanes possible to breake it: having, notwithstanding this Boon of Major Vvildman, Kept from vs
 the English mailes, tho against his Kings orders;
 & seized here in the Groyn vpon all English letters,
 & began suits at lavv vwith the Consuls at Seville, at
 Cales, & at Malaga for distributing of some. In fine
 he vvould shortly see that this great Kindness of his
 vvould serue for nothing att all but to enable Ona-
 tte to plague vs, & make him vvorse. Vvhereas if
 he had not been so hasty, hemight haue sped better,
 for vve might haue got 30. thousand crowns a yeare to
 helpe Keep the Packe- boats: or at least, in lieu of it,
 some new grant or priuiledge either for the Packe
 boats, or for the goods they should bring; or for the
 English merchants of the factoryes in Spain, & con-
 cluded the business vpon the newes of the Kings
 success in Ireland this yeare; vvich had made the
 Spaniards (vvho till then vvere vvavering) come to
 a resolution if vrg'd in that nicK of time. Howe-
 ver it neither stopt nor retarded the business to aske
 a sum of money, because there vvere certain points
 to be resolved vpo before the said Councel Vvould
 order vs the Northerne mailes; such as vvvas that
 concerning the Italian Packe boats, vvich requi-

as much time alone as the vvhole Treaty & vvould not be decided vnder two or three moneths time.

12 That the 40 thousand crouns I demanded of them vvvas a sum much inferior to those vvvhich they pay to France, & spend for their Kings PacKets & their Northern expresses: & vvvas only proposed, never insisted vpon: because they have to this day demanded no abatement; nay, nor so much as replied: by reason that he (Major Vvildman) had generously abated them the vvhole sum; & so saved them the trouble both of replying & treating further vvith me.

13 That for all his vvord given to Don Pedro Ronquillo vvhen he deliverd him his copy or duplicate, hemight come off vvell enough by laying the fault of all vpon me & my temper, alleadging that I am a cross grain, vvill ~~frall~~ fellow vvho vvould obey no orders, & vvhat he thought fitt besides, & I vvould beare it all. If this vvwere not sufficient he did not vvant specious & plausible pretences to picK a quarell vvith them. Such as vvvas (1) their Keeping & deteyning our mailes from vs contrary to their Masters positieve orders. (2) their hauing put an affront on our King by sending me to prison vvhen I vvvas his agent (as shall be said hereafter) & hauing as yet made him no satisfaction for it. (3) Cõde d'Onatte neither Keeping vvord vvith vs nor ceasing

ceasing to molest vs & to obstruct the designe; and
 hauing grossely abused him (Major Vvildman him-
 self) in the answer vvhich he had made to my propo-
 sitions; saying that Major Vvildman had see this de-
 signe on foot vvithout the Kings notice, & for his
 owne ends only, & not for the publick good of the
 Confederacy, vvwhich things not knowing before
 (vvhen he shewed himself so kind & generously
 given) he did not then, but might now shew some
 resentment of them: & vvas no more obliged to stand
 to the vvord he gave vpon a supposition that they
 kept vvithin the bounds of civility vvith vs. Some
 other such expedients I suggested to him by the hel-
 pe of vvwhich he might have come off honestly & fa-
 irly, as I thought.

14 That he Knew he had many envious and
 ennemyes vvho vvould be glad to catch at any
 plausible pretext to juggle him out of his place; for
 vvwhose sake he ought to take & observe other me-
 asures: At least ought to satisfy our Envoy at Ma-
 drid, Master Alexander Stanhop, vvho had orders as
 vvas said to assit at the Treaty; And Monsieur de
 Schoneberg also the other Envoy; both vvho must
 needs come to Know all that should be transacted.
 And as these his last orders vvwere different from the
 said Master Stanhops instructions, & against the
 Kings interest, it vvas a question vvwhether Master

Sta-

Stanhop would consider vvithout I shew'd him
sufficient vvarrants for it vvhich it vvvas necessary
for his safeguard & myne he should procure & send
me before I proceeded.

That after all, if he were resolv'd to stand
to his vvord, & vvould have no more of them than
vvhat he said, viz. the mailes deliuer'd & received, it
vvvas nobly don of him, if the King allow'd of it:
that I vvvas for my part ready to obey blindfold; but
before I obeyed I begg'd three things of him. (1)
his own confirmation of his orders in good forme.
(2) his answer, vvwhether vve should vndertake the
Italian Packet boats, or leave them to the Spaniards.
And (3) either money, or credit vpon Madrid;
vvithout vvhich I coul'd not go forward in the Treas-
ury. He coul'd not but vnderstand, that it vvvas not
possible for me to live & drive on such business in
Madrid vvithout expence of money; & he knew I
had serv'd already neer a vvelf moneth & had yet
received none: and to send me vvithout it vpon such
errand as this, vvhich vvvas oppos'd by one of the ri-
chest men in Spain (vvhere money makes the maile
go) vvvas to send me a poor cripple against a mighty
gyant, & to cutt off the feet, & hazard the loss of all.
So much for this Remonstrance.

When the Cart must lead the horse, & the horse
vvill not be led things are like to go on vvell. I am
sure

sure I vvritt to him by sea and byland these things & great many more; I represented & argued the case vvith him: I chidd, I complaind: and the horse vvould not beled, but, instead of being led, thought to overfet the cart. For it seemes the hope he had to prosper by his ovvn vvay; or the feare that Don Pedro Ronquillos cryes against him vvould maKe agreater noise at vvwhitehall than my letters. (vvwhich he hath all broKEN open since at the office, vvhen my hand appeard on them) preuaild vvith him against me. But as abigg-belyed vvench, thincKing to cever her sin by destroying her dumb fruit comes thereby to the more publicK dilgrace & mischief, ^{for} the feare of aman bringeth a snare vpon him. Prov. 29- 25. so it vvill appeare in time, & in avery short time, vvwhether his crushing of me to Keep me vnder hatches that my voice may not behard, vvill remaine buryed vvith me in silence and oblivion. Harpocrates stand his friend

Da fallax, dasanctum iustumq; videri,

Noctem peccatis, & fraudibus eius objice nubem.

The vvicked is in darCKness & Knowves not at vvhat he stumbles. Prov. 4- 19. & often to save him telf runs his neckK in the halter.

He did put off his ansuere to the three things in question from one post to another till the middle of September: vvhen there came in steed of it along

K

letter

letter of complaints, he said: vvere made against me, but vvhich he then made him self. One vvas that I vvould haue raised an estate forme vvithout the Kings priuity by as King such great sum of money of the Spaniards. As tho I could my self haue rati-fyed the Treaty, & Kept the Kings Ministers from Knouing vvhat it containd. Another vvas that I Spent, & preached for more money than the Post office could beare; vvhen I had not as yet received a single penny; & athird, that I foretold the decadence or dovvvn-fall of the present gouernment; as tho I vvere a Vvitch, or criminal for telling vvhat I see vvith my eyes, & vvhat euery body vvho is not vvillfully blind, doth see as vvell as my self. And concludes.

To maKe an end, tis of absolute necessity that you resolute vvith your self vvhat you vvill doe vpon the vvhole matter; tho you say you vvill thanck me to dismiss you; I must haue the businesse settled, & all the Spanish letters come entirely this vvay: and I must haue no delays in it, vvho ever I shall be forced to employ to doe it. I am just vpon concluding vvith Prince Taxis, then I must haue no stumbling at Madrid. I shall say no more till the next. I am.

Your hearty friend that intended your service in your seruing the King & the Realm. I, VV God man! his Zeal for his King & country hath urdon him
 This is the vvay he found out to answer my three demands: perhaps thinckKing I vvould vpon the
 the

the receipt of this, run presently to Madrid, & doe any thing rather than be turn'd out of my place, or overlet by the horse. But the cart is a strange cart, & vvas vveary of his load, therefore he threw down the load, & put it vpon the horse, vvhich, being loaded before vvill go neer to breake his back: so the cart got cleere again of the horse, & vvent alone as he vs'd to doe before he vvas concern'd vvith the horse. My meaning heieby is that the Postmaster General thought to leaue me in the lurch, but I, to preuent it sent him back my Commission vvith the following letter, thus leauing him to ansver for all the miscarriages that should happen aftervvards; vvich, being ^{no more} unconcerned, cannot be laid to my charge. My letter to him vvas this.

Sir, as you generously bestow'd the place vpon me, so I doe freely return it to you vvith thanks, & send you back my Patent or Commission for the Post. My other of Agent being in the Spanish Secretary of states hands, as is vsuall at this Court, I cannot send vvith this. I Know your meaning full vvell; & could helpe all this; but it is not vvorth my vvhile. So, vvishing both you, & your Lady prosperitys, & that the next you employ may serve you as faithfully as I, I remaine.

Vvhilst I vvas vvriting the said Remonstrance to him, I did also vvrite to Don Crispin Botelho the Spanish Secretary pressing him for an ansver to my
said

saide Propositions. And finding, vvhen I came to the Groyn, no English maile vvvas sent to vs from Madrid (for by reason that ParKer had vvritten to me that the Post master vvvas come & had giuen him a receit & neuer advised me of the failvre of the mailes, I Knevv it not till then) I, taKing no notice of Major Vvildmans orders, sent to Master Stan hop the following Memorial to present it in his name, or myne as he should thinck fitt. and sent to the Post master of the groyn to come to me, & to giue me a receit for our maile vvhen it came. Vvhich, vvhen he refused to doe, I sent the maile my self by Express to Cales, Seville, & Malaga &c. And deteyned about three vveekes the Packets of Don Pedro Ronquillo to his master, vvherein I suspected Major Vvildmans duplicate or copy vvvas enclosed, to give Master Stanhop time to get an answer to my Memorial before the saide duplicate came to their hands, My saide Memorial vvvas thus.

His Magesty of great Brittaines Agent shewes your Magesty two things. One, that your Magesty having since the 12. of April last concluded & resolved in your Councel of state to settle the correspondence of the Northerm letters & mailes by vvay of England, & named & appointed Commissioners to treat vvith him, he immediately made him some propositions; to vvwhich it is aboue three moneths since he sollicitts an answer, but by reason of the many & ground less

less delays which the Post-master Generall of your Kingdoms occasioneth from day to day, he hath not been able to obtaine it.

The other, that the said Agent, in hope to see aquick and speedy end of his negotiation, hauing ever since the 26 of March last sent to Madrid all the Mailes he hath receiued from England, & receiued for them neither carriadge nor Postage, nor other mailes for England, the said Master Generall of your Post hath not only enjoyed the vvhole benefite of them & of the money the said Agent hath laid out & paid to the Post-master of the groyn to send them him, but hath also to enjoy this benefite the longer) vsed all his endeaouours to protract the said Treaty, & to break off & ruine vtterly the vvhole designe. As appeares by deteyning & sending the English mailes by vway of France & Flanders, after he had your orders to send it by the vway of Galicia and the groyn.

And as it is not reasonable that the said Post-master Generall enjoy alone, during these long delays & obstacles of his ovvn, the benefitt of the Postage of the said letters, when his Majesty of great Brittain continues alone to be att all the charge & costs of the PacKet boats: nor that his said Magesty continue to beare the charg vwithout certainty of success in this Treaty, or vwithout knowing vvhether he shall obtaine the chief end vvhich he doth ayme att hereby, viz, the cessation of all commerce, & correspondence of letters throovgh & vwith France, vvhich continues, nay

goes on more brisKely than formerly.

Therefore the said Agent hath orders (1) to press for an answer to his said propositions, & for the speedy conclusion of his Treaty. (2) to desire your Magesty to command your Post-master Generall to make good upon account to the Post office in London the Postage of the letters he hath already received, & shall receive hereafter untill the finall conclusion of his Treaty, reserving to him self so much of it as is usually paid him for their Port by land from hence to other towns & places of these Kingdoms. And since it is evident by the frequent and constant passage which two Packet boats have allwayes had hitherto, that this correspondence is both frequent & certain, & will prove such yet much more when more than two Packet boats are employed in this concern (against the objection made by the Conde d'Onatte, to stop the settling of it) to demand also (3) that all the Northern mailes be at last delivered to him, as was promised. To which three things he adds this, viz. that untill this be done Conde d'Onatte be made to conform to your former orders by sending this way all our English letters; & none by way of Flanders. And to these four things he prays your speedy dispatch. In the groyn the 16. of July 1690.

This way I proceeded in hope that Major Vvildman would take some of my advise, & that this Memoriall would be dispatched before the newes of his duplicate came to Conde d'Onatte:
and

and all the while between the receipt of his two letters, I meane that of complaints & that where of he gaue the Spaniards this duplicate, viz, from Iune to October, date of my abdication, being in expectation of his positive answer to the three things in question, I was forced to spend that time, labour, industry which should haue been spent vpon carrying on this designe, in making of excuses to both the Secretary of state and Master Stanhop who wondered at my long stay, & wrote me I turned my back to my Commission; for without Major Vvildmans answer I could not go forward in our Treaty, neither could I appeare at Madrid without treating; hauing but one way, to wit, either to yeeld according to Major Vvildmans orders, & desist of my demands; or else to take no notice at all of his duplicate; and tell them I treated not by Virtue of his but of the Kings Commission; which thing I would not doe, but Kept the true reason of my detention from them being altogether unwilling to expose him, tho he had exposed me by putting into their hands the duplicate above said. May that I was forced to bestow my time in contriving excuses for him to the Spanish Court & the factories in Spain (which were earnestly pressing for a speedy conclusion, & were very uneasy by reason that their letters were longer in their passage to their hands

than

than formerly, being often deteyned at the Post house in Madrid & retarded othervvise by Onattes contriuance) & in arguing vvith him, in disputing of principles, in contriuing for him that vvvas to contriue for me every thing conducing to the better gouernment & settling of this concern; for those things vvvere committed vvvhich ought not to haue been don, & those things vvvere committed vvvhich ought to haue been minded, & there vvvas no health in vs. Every one vvvas a King; the Captains & the seamen thought the Packe-boats their ovvn, & the freight, & the prizes, vvould taKe no goods vpon freight, Kept the ship for their ovvn goods, & vvould run after prizes, & vvhen they had taKen some, spent their time in disposing of them, vvhillst the merchats vvvere ill serued & complained as tho I had been he that deteyned their letters; and every time they came, nothing but nevv occasions of discontent & quarrells: so that I vvrote and directed my letters for him to Madam Vvildman that she might peruse them all & put him daily in minde of the things I vvrote: & vvvas vvaiting vvith patience, & bore the bvdn of all, the Spanish Court, the merchants, the Packe-boats & himself vpon my back, his errors & his failings to redress & to conceal, Conde d'Onattes tricks to oppose & to defeat, Parker, Gvins & such other vnderhand dēling Rascalls

trea-

treacheryes to vvatch against, & no money all the vvhile; vvhen, behold, the said scolding or complaining letter came; and the next Post after asarr vvorse to make amends, vvith My Lord Nottingham's letter, vvhich he had procured; to acquaint me that the King vvould have me all no longer as Agent, being highly displeased vvith my late proceedings; My Lord meant in the businesse for vvhich I vvvas sent to Prison in Italy last. And that same businesse vvvas thus: When we vvvere eigh or ten at dinner in my ovvn house, Parker the Consul vvvas one, & Cliess newly made Captain of one of the Packets boats, & vvho had brought in, and sold afrench prize, vvvas another; vvhen there came into the room, & vp to the very table an ordinary fellow, a Spaniard, vvith his hat on; & talked & drunck vvith both Parker & the said Captain. I took notice of his rudenesse in coming in thus; & besides vvithout my leave, vvithout Knocking at the door, or calling from the staires, as the custom of the place requireth, even in the meaneest mans house in the town: but not knowing vvhat he vvvas, & thincking he came to drive some bargaine vvith the Captain, vvhoose sport I vvould not spoil, & not minding vvhat they said, because I vvvas then in discourse vvith another, & did not vvell vnderstand the Spanish Galego tongue, I thought to pass it by; untill Parker directing to

me his speech in English, said he vvas an Escrivan
(that is, such an officer of justice, as a sergeant) &
that he had notified the said Captain at my table, &
wille you take it, said he?

Vwhere vpon considering the manner vvhich
he came in, & his sauuoy behauour, & his taKing
no notice at all of me all the vvhile; & ouer & aboue
this notifying the Captain in my house vwithout my
leauē, concluded that it vvas don on purpose to
affront me: & thought, if I tooK this, they vwould
put more vpon me, & maKe at last nothing of me
& my Priuiledge; vvhich I vvas to maintain, as vwell
as the respect vvas due to my Character; one of the
ends & intents for vvhich I vvas made publicK
Minister being (at least as Major Vvildman vvrote
me by his of the 28 Ianuary) to maKe my house &
the goods that came by the Packēt boats sacred (they
are his ovvn vvords) and therefore I could not an-
swere taKing this affront vwithout resentment of
it; but vvithall did consider that if I did drub him I
should hereby pull down an old house about my
cares, excitate crabrones, stirr vp a vvhole mobile of
Iustices, vvho are proud, absolute, vncontrouled, &
potent, all Spain over; so that I thought it best not
to meddle vvith his person; & called to him & tooK
a paper out of his hand (vvhich proved to be that of
the nouification) & taring it to the middle, I gave it
him

him again, bidding him make another, & learn to pay more respect to the King of Englands Ministers, another time, whose house was not the high way, nor a tavern to come in, & drinck in, & notify any body without leave. So without any more words or adoe he went away to complain to the Vice-King: and I went after him my self to complain also; desiring Parker to go with me, but he, tho he readily waits upon all the Masters of ships thither, would not go.

Being with the ViceKing he told me his order was on the back of that paper, & that it was his order I had torn: I said, that the question was not whether it was his order; but whether the Esdrivan had power to affront me, & to notify a man in my house and at my table: I hoped he had not given him such an order; therefore, if he had neither power nor order for it, he ought to be punished, & in his Magestys name I came to demand it: that as for any respect which his order might challenge, it had not been lost by me: for so long as the fellow told me neither what he was, nor what he came to doe, nor by whose order he came, his order was not abused nor concerned in the case; and that he had set his hand & order to that paper, (as he doth to all other diligences those men make) not *quatenus* ViceKing, but only *quatenus* he is Iudge Conservator of the
En;

English & the Dutch, therefore 'twas not the Vice-Kings, but the Judge Conservators order vvhich I had torn; & so his ViceKingship ought not to interfere here. Now vvhhat power, said I, hath the Judge Conservator, nay the ViceKing him self, to infringe my Priviledge, & to put an affront of this nature vpon me. If he took that vpon him, I might, I conceiue, take vpon me to maintain the respect due to the King of England whom I serued; vvhich would in due time & place vindicate my proceedings, & revenge the injury don to him in my person. Hearing this, he asked me vvhhat priviledge I had? I replied, you know it; and you cannot pretend ignorance of vvhhat I am: for I did shew you the day that I landed, the Commission I haue, & you saw it, nay & read vvvith others, some part of it: & your self did then advise Don Crispin Botelho the Secretary of it. But that his Excellency might be left vvithout excuse, I pull'd out a paper, vvhich vvas the Council of states answer to my Memorial vvhereby it appeared that I vvas admitted for a publicK Minister, and actually in treaty vvith them & vvith his Master (But he vvould reade none of it, & so I took my leave, & came home & dispatched the maile, & the Packet boat, advising Major Vvildman, & My Lord Secretary Shrewsbury of all these things; as also Master Scranhop: not mistaking in the least, that the grutch
 vvwhich

which I Knevv the Vice-King did beare me for getting Post horses to Madrid not vvithstanding his attempt to prevent it, vvould go so far as it did.

But as soon as the said Packe^t boat vvvas vnder sayle, vvhist I vvvas vvriting these things to Master Stanhop, there came an officer vvith some souldiers to my house, vvho carryed me out of it Prisoner to the Castle (vvhich is but one of their sayles) vvhere they Kept me some dayes from friends, pen, inck, & paper; against the lavv of nations, & vvithout any regard to the great obligations vvvere lately laid vpon them, then released me vvith some formalities of iustice, pretending, I suppose, that they Knevvy nothing of my being the Kings Minister. *Vvhen there is no King*, saith one, Iudg 17. 6. *all men in authority doe vvhat seemes right in their eyes: & become like somany tyrants to oppress the Land: & therefore*, saith the greatest Politician I Knowv *Prov. 28-16. a King that lacketh vnderstanding he is also a great oppressor.* And Machiavel, his ape, *ogni volta che vn Principe non havera consiglio è prudenza dase*, hee must needs vvith his subjects become the prey of all those vvho have places vnder him! Certainly Kings are not made pro forma onely to vvear the name & to let others exercise all the povver, but to exercise it them selves over all their people, & to doe justice them selves of all them that doe evill. Rom. 13. 4. Kings might

govern by Proxy, if they could give an account to God by their favorites.

My letter to my Lord Secretary Shrevvsbury vvas suppress'd at the Post house, and noble Major Vvildman out of the abundance of his great mercy and truth, and zeale for the service and honor of his Master, instead of taking my part, & representing the thing to my Lord Secretary according to my letters, sides vwith my adversaries, turns an Apology for me into calumnies, & setting on my action such glose as vwould serve his turn, charges me vwith taring & destroying of letters to the Earl of Nottingham (vwho being but newly come in my Lord Shrevvsburys place Knew nothing of the matter) Aynd the ViceKings letters; & for abusing the King & the Ministers of Spain: for vvhich I vvas re-vvokt to give them satisfaction; vwhen they did not expect it, but rather thought that they should be made to give it them selves, so true to his trust he proved; & so diligent & drudge to the Spaniards, he became. O David, o Oliver! how far less than this you vwould, if I had been your mans have swving'd off these Ammonites! 2. Sam. 10. *And he overthrew them.*

The Kings Agent in prison by a perry ViceKing for defending his Masters honor vvhich vvas invaded! And instead of reflecting & revenging the affront, the said honor & Agent must be further sacrificed.

excused. But vvhy not the Kings honor as vvell as
 his interests; for he vvho *expects no more*, for so many
 thousand pounds, mispent of the Kings Estate, *that*
only the mailes, to be deliver'd & received, may dispense
 vvith his honor, & sacrifice his Agent as vvell; & ha-
 ve thanks to boot. *O tempora, & mores!* a blessed Go-
 vernment! *Magni volu, &c.* to the end of the chapter!
 Vvhy so? vvhy d'ont you complaine? Complaine!
 a noble employment to go crying cap in hand! &
 a great favor it is vvhen the Ministers heare you. But
 vvhy did they revok me before they heard my rea-
 sons? Is a man fit for my place, & not vvorthy to be
 heard before he be rved out? Besides let them
 seek redress that vvant it; 'tis their concern, & not
 mine. This vvants redress; for I doe not intend to
 stand for the place again, being no more vvorth my
 while, as the Major hath made it. And if they finde
 no fault vvith, or know not how to finde out vvho
 is right, vvho is faulty, let them even smart for
 it. I am sure that, as *ipsa sui pretium virtus*, so vice in
 government proves alvvayes the punisher & pu-
 nishment of the same. Yet I gave an account of all
 to both the Envoys, Master Stanhop & Monsieur de
 Schoneberg, at Madrid: both vvich sent me vvord
 again that it did not concern them: If it did not con-
 cern them, vvho are employed & paid for minding
 of the Kings concern; & vvho vvare to assist me, it

concerned me as little. Perhaps I might haue given an account also to the Earl of Nottingham, had I not perceived that he took it for granted that the things laid to my charge by Major Vvildman were true; & thereby shewed he had been prejudiced against me: and had I not Known that my letters were opened at the Post-house in London by Major Vvildman himself.

Vvhen I was out of Iayle, I found it was Parker (vvho had made it his business before to vvrite of me a thousand lyes to one Gvin, vvho runs vvith the Post office & Parker-boats at falmouth, that he might represent them through a magnyfying glass to the Major, as he did) had contriv'd this treachery to the end I might doe some vvivarrantable thing, vvwhich they were both ready to catch hold of against me. For that Escrivan himself vvhole paper I have torn, told me that he was ready to make an affidavit, that the said Captain had been notified three houres before, & that in Parkers ovvn house; vvho took it as he is vvont to take all other affronts: and that Parker call'd him vp from the Vvindowv of that room vvhere vve were then at dinner. And other Spaniards told me, that vvhen I was in Iayle he told them, vvhen he saw them resolved to set me free, that seeing they had begun they ought to Keep me in till orders came to cleer me; for as their fault vvould

would not be the less for letting me out, so 'twould not be the greater for Keeping me in till then. And when he was admitted to see me in the Castle, he advised me to beg his Excellencies pardon: vvhich I was so farr from, that I would not so much as speak to that Ouvidor vvhich he sent to the Castle to take my declaration. This is Parkers faire dealing by his ovvn Partner & friend, his manner of discharging his trust, & of standing for the honor & privilege of his ^{king} Country: for vvhich & for other things I parted vvvith him presently after, ^{these things} tho vpon conditions disaduantagious to me.

And after our parting being desirous to give an account to our friends, I asked it of him. But being not able to get it in three moneths time, I was forced at last to protest for vvant of it. And as soon as my protest had been notified to him, he vvnt to the ViceKing vvith a memorial & petition against me, setting forth that I was running out of the Country, & was deeply in his debt. The ViceKing remitting that paper or petition to his Assessor, a judge vvho was a friend of Parker, he gaue him that very night an order to arrest me; vvhere vpon I was arrested at Parkers suit, & carryed at noon day by an algouazil through the town tovvards the layle, I meane the common jayle; but being in the vvay found meanes to get in the house of Master Iohn

Croesen Consul of the Dutch nation; vvhere the King of great Britains Agent begg'd Sanctuary, & found it; a Consuls house affording him that shelter, vvhich vvvas by Parker & the judge, denyed to *him* in his ^{own} ~~own~~ *consul*: *tam vastè effrenata se jactat audacia;* vvhen Kings gouern not them selues, & faults are not punished. Being there I vrged & pressed for an account, vvhich he could not deny then, this last action of his ^{having} ~~making~~ a huge noise amongst all sorts of people in this toun; so vve came to an account before the said Consul, his brother, Master Stafford, Andrevv Hore, & Seuerall others both Dutch & Spaniards, and three of the Notaryes & Scrivans of this Country, vvho haue all set their hands to it, & giuen me besides a declaration of it; and he vvvas found in my debt vpon five severall accounts for goods & money he had then of myne in cash; for vvhich money he beggd of me to accept a bill of that same judge vvho had given the decree or order to arrest me; vvhich I accepted of; but that bill is not yet paid: And for the goods he ovves & is like to ovve me still, being not able to pay the fiftieth part of his debts. This is notoriously Known, & declared & proved by the said Gentlemen & Scrivans, as above said.

The next Post or Packet-boat after this, came to my hands Major Vvildmans last letter to me, vvhich

vvhich, thò it told me I should be revoaKed, vvvas
 in termes as different from ~~this~~ precedent letter of
 complaints, as his of Iune the 10. vvvas from that of
 May the 13. mention'd before: that is, very obli-
 ging. There he said, *all his credit & his interest at Court*
 (vvhich he vvould have me beleewe he had vs'd in
 my behalf) *vvvas not able to protect me against the heavy*
complaints he said vvvere made against me, for taring the
ViceKings letters, contemning of him & of his authority,
& the King of Spain himself. I assure you, faith he, it
vvvas not in my povver to prevent it, meaning my Com-
 mission being revoaKt. *But as to any perjonst Kindness*
lies in ^{my} povver you shall alvvayes command it. And at the
 very same time he vvrote quite contrary to Parker,
 & promis'd him the management of the mailes, thò
 he Knev him guilty of all the mis demeanours &
 faults mentioned before, & my greatest Ennemy;
 bidding him to Keep from me his said promise of
 the maile; lest perhaps my resentment of this vn-
 vvorthy dealing should haue put me vpon doing
 vvhat I doe novv, that is to say, declaring & maKing
 Knovvn our case. And by the next maile after he
 sent him the Kings vvarrant for my supersedeas; and
 his ovvn: vvhich vvvas needless, because he had al-
 ready received my Commission or deputation from
 him, vvhich I had sent him back: but he vvould
 maKe that flourish in recrimination of my slighting
 his

his Patent or Commission, as he thought; and as he had plaid the King in *Expecting no more than the mailes delivered*, so he might ape him h Kevvile in issuing his varrant in forme, being copyed from the Kings varrant vvord for vvord. Vvhich thing vvvas never don yet in the Case of the Post patents or deputations.

Parker having *impunè* in fringed my priviledge, & being encouraged & backt by Major Vvildman, did not sticK (to vvracK his spleen vpon me) at invading the Kings jurisdiction & Prerogative it self, by bringing him before an inferior Court in Spain; vvhere the meanest Minister of the meanest Prince or state acKnovvledgeth no other jurisdiction but his ovvn; for he, having received from Vvildman the Kings varrant for me to desist or cease to act further as Agent; in steed of bringing & delivering it me, according to the stylø, and tenor of those vvarrants, vvvhich say, *vpon the receit of these you are to desist*, he sent an Escrivan of the said inferior Court & forrein jurisdiction vvith a copy of the same to notify it to me; & put the original in the said inferior Court vvhere it remaines to this day, for a record to all people that a great King of England hath implored the helpe of the said Escrivan and Court to make Knovvn his vvill to one of his Ministers; that because the said varrant could not challenge obe-

obedience vvithout the interuention & povver of the said Court, the Escrivan should pass him a certificate of it, vvherevvith he might go to law vvith ~~him~~^{me} before the said Court. And novv his Magesty is like to be vvell obeyed, vvithout question the said Court & Escrivan vvill right him. Yet, if I had not been so basely left in the lurch, I had broken his pate to teach him to intermeddle betveen the King of England & his Ministers abroad; vvho are to be sent for home & punished by himself if they be disobedient: thò vvorthy Consul ParKer, vvho Knowes as much vvhat belongs to the right of nations & the duty of his place, as the svvine in rhe Proverbs 11-22. to the jevvell in his snout, deserves it better than he, for profaning his Kings name & signet at this rate, in maKing them run a bout trough the hands of those fellovves, vvho vvient vvapor- ing vvith them, & maKing a rare shevv of his vvarrants & commands vvwhich came to shelter themselves vnder their authority.

ParKer, the shame of ManKinde! for he is made of nothing but falsehood and treachery; and falsehood is the thing manKinde is most ashamed of (to King it every vvhere for such shame & disgrace to be called a lyer or false that nothing but death, viz the death of him that gives the lye can blot that thame out) abominably false, impudently treacher

ous & perjured severall times; famous in Galicia for it, for over reaching, & for getting in to debt & never paying any; having neither heart to pay nor head peece to be a Knave; a pusillanimous for vvho hath betryed the nation & pacKet boats priviledge & his own more than six times, a disgrace to his place, to the nation, & to trade; having broke & run away from the Groyn two yeares before he got his place of Consul, & is come to it again not to pay off the old score, but to vse the priviledge of Consul to Keep off suits & the jayle at the end on't, & to run deeper in debt if he vv ere not better Knovvn than trusted in this country; this Parker, this same monster of a man, is let alone, he lives still, *immo vero* is set up in steed of me, is Consul, Post Master, is the right vvotship full tool Major Vvildman hath chosen to manage the PacKet boats, and preferr'd to one vvho did offer fifty pounds a yeare for the Portuguese letters; and he, vvith Gvvin, of Falmouth, another foul beast of prey, both fit for the Majors turn, that is, to doe any thing vv which he shall put them vpon, (as is the pvrloining of the goods in the prizes) & take the blame vpon them; are the two *Troxnes* that drive on the vvhole concern.

And for their sake it is Major Vvildman continues the PacKet boats at falmouth, (vvhere there is no freight for them, & vv hence they can not get
 avway

ayway vvith a south east vvind, vvhereas as I shew'd him, there is a great trade stirring, & freigh: there fore at Plymouth; and they may come out of that port vvith any vvinde; and come & return as soon from Plymouth as from Falmouth; besides the con- veniency of coaches for Passengers, & of cheaper conveyance for goods from London, Exon & other places thither.) And allowes the said Parker about fifty pounds a yeare besides the profit he makes of the Portuguese letters, vvhen he might have that mo- ney, & haue fifty pounds besides paid before hand for the said letters, as I haue said. Because he hath so much like one of the Major Vvorthyes behaved him- self against me; & against the King himself (1) in purloining the mailes, & vsurping the Postage from the Conde d'Onatte, contrary to my orders, & gi- ving the false advise, vvhereby he spoild the busi- ness (2) in bringing the King vvnder the lash of a Spanish Court; (3) in arresting his Agent in disre- grace full manner, & by a most scandalous & impu- dent false pretence, vvhen himself being Consul ought to have stood against all others for his Pri- viledge & tender to the Kings Honor; (4) in suffering the Deputy Post master of the Groyne to come in to his oven house, & seize vpon, & carry away the mailes as soon as they are brought there from on bo- ard the Parker boats. (5) in betraying twice the
Parker-

PacKet-boats priviledge, both times by delivering & suffering a Sergeant that vvas sent from the Vice-King to take & carry away vvithout any resistance out of the said PacKet-boats tvvo or three Irish, and one Portuguese, seamen; the first taken here on shoar, & the other on board of a Portuguese Vessell, & sent prisoners by him on board of the PacKet-boats; thò he Knevv very vvell that the last vvas a Portuguese, & that the first did belong to a Dutch prize in this Port, All these things Major Vvildman not only Knowes very vvell, for I haue advised him of them over & over, but, thò by one article of Parkers Deputation he is to forfeit his place & five hundred pounds besides if he shall be found guilty of vnfaithfullness, he also countenanceth, & continueth him therein.

Thus ended my Agency; & vvith it the Treaty for settling this Post vvith Spain: for ~~that~~ ^{that} Treaty is no more in the same condition or state as ^{it was when} I came from Madrid. *Tempora mutantur*; the Spaniards vvore then vvilling, but novv, having lost the hopes they had then to reduce France by the meanes of our King their minde is altered vvithin, & vvill not easily be brought to breaK their commerce & correspondence through it, & to settle it our vvay as they had certainly don, if the Major had, instead of getting me reyoaked, sent me money & orders to go

again

again to Madrid & to finish the treaty ; for I might have been there before, & about that time that the newes of the Kings success in Ireland arriv'd, & nicKt that time & caught hold of that opportunity to conclude vpon such termes as they vvill not novv yeeld to: that is, got of them money, & the northern mailes, vvich (if the Spaniards broKe off all correspondence through France , & vvould no more receive any mailes coming that vvay) the Dutch & other Nations of the North vvould be forced also to send our vvay; so that , as I vvritt often to Major Vvildman there vvvas no need to spend money in sending Agents, as he did , to treat vvith them , & vvith the Prince of Taxis, the Post-master of Flanders. By vvich meanes the nation & merchants had been vvell serv'd, the Kings designe effected, his ends ansver'd to the full , vvhereas on the contrary they are quite disappointed. For the french correspondence continues as formerly; no trade suffers by these nev v Packet-boats but our ovvn: for, not to mention the loss of severall of the mailes, our letters are longer a going this vvay to Cales & other Spanish places than they vv ere by vvay of France, & than they are at this time going by vvay of Flanders; vvhereas the french letters go in a shorter space of time, & more safely than ours; the French are as much Masters of all the correspondence of other nations

tions vvith Spaine as ever they vv ere, becaufe all the letters that are vvritten from Spaine to them, & England also, are by Conde d'Onatte sent them by the vvay of France; & not by the PackEt boats. A great deale of money hath been spent vvithout returns, & the Kings revenue vvasted vpon PackEt-boats vv which could neither fight nor sayle (such vv as the Spanish Princeff, vv which Captain Iohn Hutchins deliver'd vvithout fighting, to a french Privateer of about eighteen guns, for vv which he hath been preferred to a very good new one, bigger than the other two) & vv which have served hither to for little more than to set some on horseback, & to make them huff & strutt liKe a Signor, Capitan, & take prizes, & share them vvith the Majors Deputy Post-master, Gvvin of salmouth: vv who it seemes (vvith allovvan- ce) hath made a shift to convert to the vse of, God Knowves vv hom, (not of the King. or seamen, vv who vv ere promised their share, but have seen nothing of it) five or six prizes counted vvorth vv twelve thousand pounds. And at last to crowne the vv orck, his Magesty vvill be forced, vvhen ever the peace is made betveen Spain & France, to desist of this designe, & to send again through France his ovvn PackEts & letters: for vvithout, doubt the french vvill make it one of their articles that the Spaniards shall admit of no English PackEt-boats: for vv which
most

most acceptable & pleasing piece of service he is as much beholding to his Post-master general Major Vvildman as I for the Kindness & favor he hath shew'd me, because I told him truth, & gave him to vnderstand I saw his nakedness. A fool is alwayes a Knave; therefore vwhen you call him fool, be-vvare of his Knayish trickes.

Thus, as in some other things, vve have in this made a pass at the french to no purpose: a great cry & little vvvool for fevv Portuguese letters, vvhich is all the Packt boats carry from hence in their mai-les, the merchants of Portugal alone being vvell ser-ved, & reaping the benefit of this nevv vnder-~~standing~~ *of giving & contributing largely to encourage it* King: yet had the heart to complaine vwhen I vvould make them pay the same rate for their letters as Con-de d'Onatte takes of all the English in Spain: and the mercifull Major had that of admitting of their complaints against me; and to *Expect no more of* them than of the Spaniards, that is, *than their letters deliver'd & received*, altho he hath been offer'd fifty pounds a yeare for them. And this hath been his method for concluding & settling of this cōcern speedi-ly. Yet for these condescensions & gratifications of his, see vvhat he hath got; Conde d'Onatte in steed of coming to terms vvith him, not only deteynes the mailes & sends them via Flanders, but hath since seized vpon, our mailes in Parkers house as soon as they

they are brought thither from the Packēt boats, & attempted, the same thing on the Portuguese letters, vvhich our *Bravo* ParKer vwill deliver him liKevvise as soon as he is sent to for the same in good earnest.

To conclude this long letter; don't you thinck I must haue been much taKen vvith my place; & that I haue had a very brave time of it? The King & nation to serue at my oun costs & charges; all the business to drive on, & at the same time to contriue for other men; besides the labour & trouble of justifying, by severall long letters (vvhich thing vvas more tyresome & grieuous than all the rest) my actions & contrivance; both calumnyes & complaints against me to ansver to; faults & errors to redress, the ViceKing, d'Onatte, Vvildman, ParKer, the Caprains, the merchants in Portugal & in Spain vpon my back; in danger by the Spaniards, vvho haue threatned to Kill me, & by the French men of vvarr, (vvhich, it seemes haue all orders to catch me, if they be able) & by the English them selves vvho, instead of bacKing me haue fallen foul of me at home. Mean vvhile if any profit offerd belonging to me the Caprains got it from me; & every time they came I had fresh occasions of discontent & quarrells.

*Hæu! quæ me tellus, aer, vel quæ æquora possunt
Accipere, aut quid iam misero mihi denique restat?
Cui neque apud Gallos vsquam locus: & super ipsi*

Hif-

Hispani infensi penas cum sanguine poscunt.

I seruidum se uult
 Vvillt I am left in the lurch by ~~John~~ George & his party; *hic pietatis honos* ? vvho vvould be a Kings Agent or minister at this rate ?

But o Lord, all is from thee: Kings & Princes are nothing but insignificant Tools, dead instruments, in thy hand: vvho liKe the covves that vvvent on vvith thy Ark against their vvill 1. Sam. 6-12. Doe vndeignedly, & vvill they nill they, dispense according to thy pleasure their revvards & punishments; often entertaining a snake in their ovvn bosom, & often driving avway those vvhom they should entertain. *In the Kings mouth there is a Divine sentence, his lips* (right or vvrong) *doe not transgress in judgement.* Prov. 16-10. And this thing is befall'n me because I could not rest contented vvith thy service, but must haue other Masters, & liKe the old Israel, go a vvoring after other Kings besides thy self, & look for a fortune at their hands, & not from thee, vvwhose blessing alone maKes rich, & addes no sorrow vvith it. ch. 10-22. Therefore, thò the silly vvorld, vvwhich nevers in their life judge a righteous judgement, but judge only according to the outvvard appearance, & lookt vpon me as made vvhen I had got my place; looks vpon me as vndon because I haue lost it; vvvas thy blessing, o Lord, to deliuer me from it, & vvith it of all the troubles that did accompany it.

that I might return in good time to thy service, & depend on thee alone from vvhom comes all our good. Therefore avvay vvith my place, to free my self all at once, avvay vvith my Commission.

Nunc est esse pius, that is, too true to my trust. If I had not been so, I might have Kept my place: but for vvhat? marck the end on't: to purchase sorrow & trouble, & to lose it vvith disgrace as Major Vvildman vvill doe. *Yet my son, be not righteous over much*, saith Solomon. Eccl. 7. 17. Vviah lost his life, and I my place by it. A difference between vs is that there vvvas a great King took notice of vvhat he did; but in my case there is one vvho takes notice only of vvhat they tell him of me. O Pharao, & o Iethro! vvhy? Pharao vvvas a great King, & Iethro vvvas a great Prince: as soon as they heard Ioseph Gen. 41. 38. 40. And Moses. Exod. 2. 21. they Knew their men; & vvvere blessed, one vvith a faith full Minister of state, the other vvith such son in law as Moses, because they Knew them vnder their cloud, & vvvere not offended at them for their misery. Math. 21. 6. And I tell thee, Pharao, that thou didst save thy country, because thou vvvent a great King; & thou vvvent, great, because vvise, (vvnderstanding in treating & examining thy self, the men fit for thy business) for it is vvildom makes great. *L'homme est grand qu'autant qu'il sçait, & quand il sçait il perd tout.*

tout. Saith the late Oracle of Spain, one Baltazar Gra-
 cien. Neither slashing & cutting, & playing the Or-
 lando furioso in a battle, but vvifdom maKes a King
 great & dread full & absolute. 1. King. 3. 28. *By me,*
saith Vvifdom, Kings reign. Prov. 8. 15. get King-
 doms & preserue them. For to be a good souldier
 signifies no more in Kings tovwards preseruing of
 them than swimming vvell signifies in the Pilot of a
 ship overtaken by a storm in the midst of a broad
 sea, vvho cannot by swimming save either the ship
 or himself. Indeed in a Commander, vvho vvith a
 little money & few men, as Scanderbeg, doth great
 things, it signifies tovwards getting a Kingdom,
 but availes little or nothing tovwards the Keeping of
 it, & making him a great King, vvithout Know-
 ledge & vvifdom. *Give me vvifdom,* saith David, Psal.
 119. 144. *And I shall live, & reign.* Vvifdom is the
 thing that maKes a King like the Almighty.

C'est la, Jaques, cest la cequi fait vn grand Roy!

Mais de ces grands Rois la en est il sur la terre?

O trop heureux Francois il nen est que pour toy.

Let me add this thing, Pharaoh, that he is not vvifely
 don, but a pity full thing & the way to destruction,
 because upon righteousness the throne is established. Prov.
 7. 16. vvhen a subject that doth ill is permitted to op-
 press his other fellow subjects because they minde
 their business. But if thou wert yet alive thou vvouldest

dſt hág the chief BaKer, & reſtore the chief Buttlér, & prefer Joſeph again; becauſe thou vvert a great King, & Knevv hovv to doe juſtice, both in its punitive & remunerative part. But alaſſ! thou art no more, *furda cano fabulam*: thy ſpirit & thy vvifdom in their vvay from Egypt to England vvère ſtopt in France, vvhere they make good vſe of them. Is a man ſitt for my place, & not vvorthy to be heard before he be turned out? Turning out & turning in hath turn'd the ſhip vp ſide dovvn; and vvhen ſhe is overſet all thoſe that belong to her endeavour to helpe them ſelves; many others are in hope to ſhew in troubled vvaters, but very few are thoſe vvho goe about to help her. If I have don my part tovwards it let others judge: and that you may judge your ſelf, I ſend you this account, vvhiçh I conclude here by being.

Sir.

Coruña the 30. of December 1690.

Your very humble ſervant.

Oliver Hill.

POSTSCRIPT.

FINIS coronat opus. Vvhilſt this letter vvás printing, ParKer, to crowne the vvorcke, hath moſt magnanimouſly ſurrender'd at firſt onſet the Portugueſe ſmáile alſo to the Conde d'Onate, vvho tho no great vvarrrior, hath got a full victory

victory thereby over the English: the Post-master
 of this place having seized vpon it in Consul Parkers
 ovvn house, & carryed it avway by virtue of an
 order, not of the King, or Vice King vvho is ovvr
 onely judge, but of the Fiscal, vvho hath no povver
 over strangers, much less over a Consul & Post-mas-
 ter from England, & to vvhose order therefore Par-
 Ker might chuse to obey: especially in this case, &
 besides in his ovvn house, vvhere by the articles of
 peace no judge, nay & not our Iudge Conservator
 himself, hath any jurisdiction. And Master Parker
 fairly, vvithout expecting orders, & vvithout ma-
 King the least offer of opposition, suffer'd it to be ta-
 Ken & carryed avway from him: thus renouncing by
 this act to all his priviledges as Englishman, as Con-
 sul, as Post-master from England, and betrying the
 Kings right, vvwhich he vvvas entrusted vvith to im-
 prove & to maintain (as by one of the articles of his
 Deputation he is on the forfeiture of 500. pounds ster-
 ling obliged to doe) & himself most vvretchedly;
 turning himself out of place by parting in this manner
 vvith the only remaining fragment of our vvreck,
 vvwhich made him a Post-master, & Kept together the
 soul & body of this designe, vvlaich hath yeelded vp
 the ghost vvith Parkers Post-mastership by this last
 provvess of his. He might, even thò the Post master
 had come vvith orders from the King or Vice King,

haue

have answered that he could not give it him without orders, & have locked it up, & said who dares break open my door? in which case it could have come but to a suit at law before the King & Council; wherein he might have been backed & assisted from England; Conde d'Onattes tricks made out; & his title to our Portuguese maile tryed; & our grant from the King & Council of State of Spaine; first for all the Northern mailes, & since for the English maile (made to vs on the account of the publick interest, & not out of merce, as to Conde d'Onatte) might have been opposed to his: during which dependency Parker might haue remained with all the Portuguese mailes: & reaped the aduantage accruing by the postage of letters, & the credit & acquaintance the power of disposing of them brings. But *the wicked fleeth, saith one, when no man doth pursue him, & knowes not at what he stumbles.* He that never appeared but in vnder hand dealings, & base tricks & treacheryes, is not capable of going through any difficulty, *his strength is small,* his heart failes & melts in such occasions, *Prov. 24. 10. The shaking of a leaf,* the big looks of any man, & the least shew of danger daunts him, makes him quake & tremble *Levit. 26. 36. Deut. 28. 65.* he is not fitt to appeare for his King & his country: therefore such were disbanded when a battle was to be fought *Deut. 20. 8.* But such one was taken by Vild-man for his champion, when by Parkers own letters

& by those of other men, vvvhich I have sent to him he did Knowv him to be such: so eager he shewved himself in nettling & vexing me, that he vvould see vp Parker in opposition to me. And so hasty he vvvas to be revēged of me for seeing, & shewving him I savv his naKedness, that his haste to see me out made him minde no other thing than the meanes to effect it; & lose, for vvant of a sKing, even the most material & chief things of the concern, vvvhich he might easily had if he had demanded them to vvitt the vvhole northern maile (seeing he relinquished & yeelded vp all that I demanded vvith it, & it had been promised & granted vs allready) or at least the English maile, seeing Onatte cannot vvarrant the Keeping of it, & gives no other reason for sending it through Flanders, but that I am no more in Madrid to receive it, & that his orders vvvere not to forvvard it to the Groyn: his said precipitation not permitting him to maKe agreements, & to provide things fit & necessary. I could not but beleeve, vvhen I vvvas revoked, that he had adjusted vvithout me vvith Onatte, & provided some body to receive the maile from him, or made him promise to sēd himself the said maile hither. But nothing att all vvvas don; & Onatte taking all the advantages he could, things are since gone vvorse & vvorse, till novv that both the Spanish & the Portuguese letters have at last been vvrested out of the hands of his champion: by him vvho

thought in my time he did enough to put by the thrusts I made at him; & had not then the least thoughts of making these thrusts at vs. Onely some new Packet-boats, to mount vp Hutchins again, vvhich lost the Spanish Princess, & were provided in her roome; & to make amends for that vvhich he had given away, orders were sent to Falmouth that all the letters from hence to that place (vvhich are never more than four or five) should go to London before they be distributed there, lest the office should be cheated of the port of some. A great piece of providence, to save it at the spicket, & let out at the bung hole, like all the losing gamesters, & of righteousness also, to give away to the rich & to make the poor pay for't *Prov. 11. 16.* by reason of the delays, prejudicial to them, this order occasioneth. He had don better to take the 50. pounds a yeare for the Portuguese letters vvhich were offered him by one vvhich knew how to keep them from the hands of Onate, & to get money by them: for, now that they are many, they might, at the same rate as the Spanish letters pay, yeeld one time vvvith another one hundred milreys a moneth, or fowr hundred a yeare; all the charge for conveying of them forvvards & backvvards being not ovvrscore pounds. This Conde d'Onate hath got & the English too by Major Vvildmans conduct & by the Consul Parkers vvitt & magnanimity. Thus the tyde runs against vs in this & in other things it is our turn to lose, even vvvith those who vve to have vvorse luck than vve had; & it seemes 'tis the turn of our Politick noddies to be outvvitted by those who are no great Conjurers. *Non est qui sustentet legem consuevit eam inter omnes fuisse quos genuit & nutrit. Sament. Esa. 51. 18.*

